

Message Text

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ACTION ABF-01

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FM AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

TO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AGAO, ETRD, SA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF GAO TEAM

REF: FRANKFURT 2578, DHAHRAN 0445

1. POST HAS REVIEWED CONTENTS OF FRANKFURT'S REFTEL IN ORDER TO LAY GROUNDWORK FOR SCHEDULING APPOINTMENTS FOR VISITING GAO TEAM. TEAM MEMBERS SHOULD APPRECIATE THAT THERE ARE ONLY ONE OR TWO SAG OFFICIALS BASED IN CONSULAR DISTRICT WHO MIGHT BE APPROPRAITE OR HELPFUL TO THEIR INQUIRY. ARABIAN AMERICAN OIL COMPANY (ARAMCO) IS HEADQUARTERED HERE AND WE HAVE DISCUSSED VISIT WITH APPROPRIATE EXECUTIVES. THEIR RESPONSE, IN SUMMARY, IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. QUOTE: ARAMCO EXECUTIVES PLEASED TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND TOURS OF INSTALLATIONS FOR GAO GROUP. THEY TRUST GAO UNDERSTANDS THEY ARE NOT BEING INHOSPITABLE OR UNCOOPERATIVE IN POINTING OUT: (1) THEY REALLY ONLY ABLE TO SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY ON THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH SAUDI ARABIA, A MEMBER OF OPEC, HAVING HAD LITTLE CONTACT WITH OPEC ITSELF; (2) PETROMIN IS BEST AUTHORITY ON PETROMIN, WHICH IS A STATE-OWNED COMPANY THAT HAS LITTLE OR NO CONNECTION WITH ARAMCO OTHER THAN TO RECEIVE CRUDE AND PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM ARAMCO FOR DOMESTIC MARKET; (3) AMERICAN SHAREHOLDERS ARE THE AUTHORITIES ON INTERNATIONAL OIL MARKET SYSTEM -- NOT ARAMCO (PRIMARILY UNCLASSIFIED

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A PRODUCTION AND REFINING COMPANY), WHICH DOES NOT MARKET OIL.

FOR BEST SCHEDULING OF APPOINTMENTS, ARAMCO WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE SPECIFICALLY TYPES OF INFORMATION SOUGHT. IF EXTENSIVE FIELD TRIPS ARE REQUIRED, FIVE DAYS IN DHAHRAN NOT EXCESSIVE. OTHERWISE MUST QUESTION THE PORTION OF TIME SCHEDULED FOR DHAHRAN. ARAMCO EXECUTIVES, FOR EXAMPLE, ARE CURRENTLY EXTREMELY SHORT ON TIME. UNQUOTE.

3. IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SUMMARY OF OTHER SUBJECTS WHICH GOA TEAM MAY WISH TO DISCUSS SO THAT APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS CAN BE ARRANGED.

4. FURTHER TO OUR REFTTEL, WE HAVE RESERVED FOR THE TEAM AN APARTMENT LOCATED ABOVE CONGEN OFFICES, WITH LIVING ROOM BEING OUTFITTED AS OFFICE FOR TEAM'S EXCLUSIVE USE. CONGENOFF JERRY BUNTON WILL MEET TEAM WHEN IT ARRIVES DHAHRAN.
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